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## Key Colony addresses boat ordinance, water quality

JILL ZIMA BORSKI Special to The Citizen

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The Key Colony Beach City Commission recently amended its Boats, Boat Trailers, Marine Facilities and Waterways ordinance and explored participating in a study on new technology to fight water pollution in canals.

The commission, at its Oct. 16 meeting, approved an exemption from requiring city approval for installing boat lifts at 7th Street and Marine Subdivision 2. The second reading of the ordinance is set for Nov. 20.

City Manager John Bartus shared he has been reading a draft copy of the city's watershed management plan and expects grants will help fund subsequent related projects. After attending the county's annual regional climate summit, Bartus said he is interested in pursuing grant funds from the Environmental Protection Agency to remove harmful chemicals such as phosphorus from city canals.

He introduced Sandy Walters of Sustainable Water Infrastructure Group (SWIG) whose firm has methods to ensure chemical removal and grants to fund the plan. Walters said, in general, nitrogen and phosphorus are present in canals. An experimental method would use a pump truck to take water from canals and replace it with

clean water. The canal water then would be analyzed and recommendations for next steps likely would result.

The study requires two years of water quality monitoring and SWIG would partner with Mote Marine Laboratory for this. Any infrastructure required for the study could be made “aesthetically pleasing” like a “rain garden,” Walters said, and would address nutrient degradations. The findings would include the amounts and types of harmful pollutants observed over time.

An EPA grant of \$600,000 with no local funding match required would cover the cost of the project.

Walters said Lakeland is in the midst of a similar project and Doctors Lake/Fleming Island near Jacksonville has used the process as well. To further explain the project, he or engineer Vincent Seibold is to bring a design and perhaps a video to the next meeting in November.

The city’s seasonal “welcome back” party also is set for Nov. 20 at Marble Hall.

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